

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 6-8, 17 and 20-22 and add claim 23 as follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising
2 first and second beacon devices capable of wireless message
3 transmission and at least one portable device capable of receiving
4 such message transmissions, wherein said first beacon is arranged
5 to broadcast a series of inquiry messages according to a first
6 communications protocol, wherein said at least one portable device
7 is arranged to detect such inquiry messages and reply with an
8 identifier for the portable device, wherein said first beacon
9 device is arranged to transmit a received identifier to said second
10 beacon, and wherein said second beacon and portable device are
11 configured to perform a service interaction when triggered by the
12 second beacon receiving the portable device identifier, wherein
13 said service interaction includes communication setup between the
14 second beacon and the portable device.

1 2.(Original) A system as claimed in Claim 1, comprising a
2 plurality of second beacon devices, each arranged to receive
3 identifiers from the first beacon.

1 3.(Original) A system as claimed in Claim 1, further
2 comprising a secure data channel linking said first and second
3 beacon devices and for the transmission of received identifiers.

1 4.(Original) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the
2 second beacon device maintains and periodically updates a list of
3 identifiers for portable devices with which a service interaction
4 is being performed.

1 5.(Original) A system as claimed in Claim 4, further
2 comprising a timer, with said second beacon device being configured
3 to remove a portable device identifier from said list if no
4 interaction takes place for a predetermined period.

1 6.(Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in
2 Claim 4, comprising first and second beacon devices capable of
3 wireless message transmission and at least one portable device

4 capable of receiving such message transmissions, wherein said first
5 beacon is arranged to broadcast inquiry messages, wherein said at
6 least one portable device is arranged to detect said inquiry
7 messages and reply with an identifier for the portable device,
8 wherein said first beacon device is arranged to transmit a received
9 identifier to said second beacon, wherein said second beacon and
10 portable device are configured to perform a service interaction
11 when triggered by the second beacon receiving the portable device
12 identifier, and wherein said second beacon device is configured to
13 remove a portable device identifier from said a list of identifiers
14 for portable devices if a duplicate copy of said portable device
15 identifier is received from said first beacon device.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in
2 Claim 4, comprising first and second beacon devices capable of
3 wireless message transmission and at least one portable device
4 capable of receiving such message transmissions, wherein said first
5 beacon is arranged to broadcast inquiry messages, wherein said at
6 least one portable device is arranged to detect said inquiry
7 messages and reply with an identifier for the portable device,
8 wherein said first beacon device is arranged to transmit a received

9 identifier to said second beacon, wherein said second beacon and
10 portable device are configured to perform a service interaction
11 when triggered by the second beacon receiving the portable device
12 identifier, and wherein said second beacon device is configured to
13 remove a portable device identifier from said a list of identifiers
14 for portable devices if said interaction includes receipt of a
15 predetermined message requesting removal from said portable device.

1 8. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in
2 Claim 1, comprising first and second beacon devices capable of
3 wireless message transmission and at least one portable device
4 capable of receiving such message transmissions, wherein said first
5 beacon is arranged to broadcast inquiry messages, wherein said at
6 least one portable device is arranged to detect said inquiry
7 messages and reply with an identifier for the portable device,
8 wherein said first beacon device is arranged to transmit a received
9 identifier to said second beacon, wherein said second beacon and
10 portable device are configured to perform a service interaction
11 when triggered by the second beacon receiving the portable device
12 identifier, and wherein each inquiry message is in the form of a
13 plurality of data fields arranged according to said first

14 ~~communications protocol~~, wherein the first beacon device is further
15 arranged to add to each inquiry message prior to transmission an
16 additional data field, and wherein the at least one portable device
17 is arranged to receive the transmitted inquiry messages and read
18 data from said additional data field.

1 9.(Original) A system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the
2 first beacon device is arranged to include an indication in one of
3 said predetermined data fields, said indication denoting the
4 presence of said additional data field.

1 10.(Original) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said
2 first communications protocol comprises Bluetooth messaging and
3 wherein the first beacon device is configured to broadcast a series
4 of inquiry messages on a predetermined clocked succession of
5 frequencies, with clock information for said first beacon device
6 being included in data carried by said additional data field.

1 11.(Original) A mobile communication device for use in the
2 system of Claim 1, the device comprising a receiver capable of
3 receiving a short-range wireless inquiry message, processing means

4 operable to process data contained within said message and compose
5 a response message including an identifier for the device, and
6 transmission means configured to wirelessly transmit said composed
7 response message to the source of the inquiry message.

1 12.(Original) A communications infrastructure for use in the
2 communications system of Claim 1, the infrastructure comprising
3 first and second beacon devices and an interconnection therebetween,
4 said beacon devices being capable of wireless message transmission
5 to said at least one portable device, wherein said first beacon is
6 operable to broadcast a series of inquiry messages according to a
7 first communications protocol, to detect any response messages
8 containing a portable device identifier for said portable device,
9 and to transmit a received identifier to said second beacon, and
10 wherein said second beacon is configured to perform a service
11 interaction with said portable device when triggered by the second
12 beacon receiving the portable device identifier.

1 13.(Original) A communications infrastructure as claimed in
2 Claim 12, wherein said interconnection between the first and second
3 beacon devices comprises a secure data channel.

1 14.(Original) A communications infrastructure as claimed in
2 Claim 12, further comprising a plurality of second beacons.

1 15.(Original) A communications infrastructure as claimed in
2 Claim 14, further comprising message management means operable to
3 initiate and effect handover of an ongoing message transmission
4 session from one of said plurality of second beacons to another.

1 16.(Original) A communications infrastructure as claimed in
2 Claim 12, further comprising a plurality of said first beacon
3 devices.

1 17.(Currently Amended) A method for enabling the user of a
2 portable communications device to perform a service interaction with
3 a beacon device in an environment containing at least first and
4 second beacon devices capable of wireless message, wherein a first
5 beacon broadcasts a series of inquiry messages according to a first
6 communications protocol, the users portable device detects such
7 inquiry messages and replies with an identifier for the portable
8 device, the first beacon device transmits a received identifier to

9 said second beacon, and the second beacon and portable device
10 perform said service interaction when triggered by the second beacon
11 receiving the portable device identifier, wherein said service
12 interaction includes communication setup between the second beacon
13 and the portable device.

1 18.(Original) A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the
2 second beacon device maintains and periodically updates a list of
3 identifiers for portable devices with which a service interaction is
4 being performed.

1 19.(Original) A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the
2 second beacon device removes a portable device identifier from said
3 list if no interaction takes place for a predetermined period.

1 20.(Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in Claim 18,~~ for
2 enabling the user of a portable communications device to perform a
3 service interaction with a beacon device in an environment
4 containing at least first and second beacon devices capable of
5 wireless message, wherein a first beacon broadcasts a series of
6 inquiry messages, the users portable device detects such inquiry

7 messages and replies with an identifier for the portable device, the
8 first beacon device transmits a received identifier to said second
9 beacon, and the second beacon and portable device perform said
10 service interaction when triggered by the second beacon receiving
11 the portable device identifier, wherein the second beacon device
12 removes a portable device identifier from ~~said a~~ list of identifiers
13 for portable devices if a duplicate copy of said identifier is
14 received from the first beacon device.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A method ~~as claimed in Claim 18, for~~
2 enabling the user of a portable communications device to perform a
3 service interaction with a beacon device in an environment
4 containing at least first and second beacon devices capable of
5 wireless message, wherein a first beacon broadcasts a series of
6 inquiry messages, the users portable device detects such inquiry
7 messages and replies with an identifier for the portable device, the
8 first beacon device transmits a received identifier to said second
9 beacon, and the second beacon and portable device perform said
10 service interaction when triggered by the second beacon receiving
11 the portable device identifier, wherein the second beacon device
12 removes a portable device identifier from ~~said a~~ list of identifiers

13 for portable devices if said interaction includes receipt of a
14 predetermined message requesting removal from said portable device.

1 22. (Currently Amended) A method ~~as claimed in Claim 17, for~~
2 enabling the user of a portable communications device to perform a
3 service interaction with a beacon device in an environment
4 containing at least first and second beacon devices capable of
5 wireless message, wherein a first beacon broadcasts a series of
6 inquiry messages, the users portable device detects such inquiry
7 messages and replies with an identifier for the portable device, the
8 first beacon device transmits a received identifier to said second
9 beacon, and the second beacon and portable device perform said
10 service interaction when triggered by the second beacon receiving
11 the portable device identifier, wherein said inquiry messages are
12 each in the form of a plurality of predetermined data fields
13 arranged according to said first communications protocol, wherein
14 the first beacon device adds to each inquiry message prior to
15 transmission an additional data field carrying broadcast message
16 data, and wherein the portable device receives the transmitted
17 inquiry messages and reads the broadcast data from said additional
18 data field.

1 23. (New) A communications system comprising:
2 a first transmitter configured to broadcast inquiry messages;
3 second transmitter; and
4 a portable device having an identifier and configured to
5 transmit said identifier in response to said inquiry messages;
6 wherein said first transmitter is further configured to
7 transmit said identifier to said second transmitter, and said
8 second transmitter is configured to perform a service interaction
9 in response to said identifier, said service interaction including
10 communication setup between said second transmitter and said
11 portable device.